



**Laurelhurst COMMUNITY CENTER
EXPANSION PROJECT**
Thursday, December 9, 2004 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Laurelhurst Community Center

NOTES Prepared by VIA – Suzuki

Discussion of Schematic Design Options -- Comments from public:

- Discussions leading up to the Levy focused on new bathrooms and entry space so you don't walk into activity room was desired, but a big lounge wasn't expected.
- Views from existing room lost? Yes, but provided in new space.
- Shame to lose any views.
- Do you plan on enhancing views with big windows?
- Overhang at lower level can be transition area. Need to address security.
- Is expanding square footage at lower level so much more expensive?
- Using quality of materials that meets integrity of existing building is important.
- Think of the border of the park as green gold. Preserve green and minimize hardscape.
- Building is a "jewel" – what is the rationale for the size of the community center? Community does not want largest possible; small with high quality would be better.
- Integrate the outdoors with the indoors.
- Needs of community pottery program: need kiln space, safer facility. Option A shows pottery room and would need added kiln room and glazing space, could be gas fired outdoor kiln. Option B may use one Activity Room as a dedicated space.
- Electrical system is limited, kilns and boiler cannot be run at the same time.
- Dedicating funds to existing gym:
 - Parks would prefer to focus on one facility.
 - Initial analysis and recommendations will be completed for future options.
 - Majority of community comments and PAT want focus of improvements to community center.
- Perhaps community members were not aware that the gym was or could be part of the project.

- Community wants to get the “gym we always needed”; cannot get enough gym time for teams.
- Expansion project started with community initiative. Gym could start with study; community overwhelmingly says to focus on the community center.
- Gym would bring far too many people to community center site; don’t want site overrun with huge project.
- Completing both a gym remodel and a community center remodel would dilute both projects.
- It took eight years to fund community center remodel, starting with request for community center restroom. Conclusion of process was funding for community center expansion and code upgrades, not gym.
- Consider adding expansion/upgrade of gym to next levy in 2006, in conjunction with the School District. Will require community involvement.
- Don’t feel that gym upgrade has been adequately considered. Consider in detail, if it impacts schedule, consider that the community center has been here for over 50 years.
- Fall 2006 is targeted completion date for community center project.
- Building massing suggests building which is “too large” for site.
- Don’t want to wait for next levy to get gym.
- Constructing a deck or some outdoor space off second level is possible.
- Community center needs to bring in better light, reflect park relationship to outdoors.
- Discussion of parking:
 - Parking off existing service road? Issues relating to tree root protection.
 - Parking at substation not possible unless land purchased from SCL.
 - Parking around existing loop will take up green space, detracting if visible from street.
 - Green space taken away for safety (fire truck access) is fine, but keep as much green space as possible. The front lawn area is heavily utilized.
 - Front lawn is one of the few flat spaces left.
 - Consider parallel parking to conserve space.
 - Parks will strive for the least number of parking spaces, opportunity to advocate this position to City.
 - The community has often championed providing sufficient parking on-site.